

TALES FROM HITOPADESHA

The Wise Rat

बुदवंत विंदूर



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Not so long ago in a deep forest, there lived a crow, a tortoise and a rat. They were very good friends.

The crow lived in a tree close to the lake where the tortoise lived and the rat lived in a hole below the tree.

खूब आदले काळाची गजाल. एक अटंग रानांत एक कासव, एक कावळो आनी एक विंदूर आसताले. ते तिगूय भारी दोस्त.

थंय तळ्या लागीं आशिले एक रुखार कावळो, तळ्यांत कासव आनी त्या रुखाचे सकयल आशिले बीळांत विंदूर राबताले.





They would meet everyday and chat for a while. One day, as they were chatting, a deer ran past them. The deer seemed very frightened.

Sensing the deer's fear, they too got afraid and rushed to the safety of their homes.

ते तिगूय सदांच ओटटु मेळनु थोडो वेळ गपशप करताले. एक दिवस ते अशीं फरडी मारत बशिले वेळार एक चित्तल तांचे मुखावयल्यान धावन गेलें. पळयल्यार तें खूब भियेलवरी दिसतालें

ताक्का पळोवन ह्या तीन मित्रांकूय भंयशें दिसचा लागलें. आनी आपण्यालो जीव वांचोवन घेवचाक ते घरा वाटेन धावले.

After a while, the crow who was sitting high on the tree called out, "Come out my friends, there is no danger nearby."

He then turned to the deer who was hiding in a bush nearby and asked, "Why were you running when there was no danger?"

थोडेवेळा उपरांत रुखाचे ऊंच बशिले कावळ्यान
"मित्रांनो, भायर येयात. आतां हांगा कसलोय अपाय
ना." अशीं आपयलें.

थंयीच झाडकुटांत निपिले चितला कडेन पळोवन
"कांय अपाय नासलोतरी तूं कित्याक धांवत आशिलो?"
म्हण विचारलें.





The deer replied, “There is danger! There are a group of hunters in the forest and I just managed to escape them. Thank you for letting me hide near your homes.”

Hearing this, the crow said, “Don't worry, we are your friends now and we'll help you.”

चितलान म्हळें “आसाब्बा अपायु! शिकारयांलो होड चोंबोच रानांत आयला . हांव कशीं तरी थंयचान वांचून धावन आयलां. तुमी तुमचे घरालागीं निपचाक म्हाका अवकाश दिल्ले बद्दल तुमकां देव बरें करूं म्हणतां.”

हें आयकून कावळयान म्हळें “तूं कांय चिंता करुनाका. आतां आमी तुगेले दोस्त, तुका खंडीत मदत करताती.”

“Yes!” said the rat, “That’s what friends are for!”

The deer thanked his new friends and said, “My dear friends, I heard the hunters are planning to camp near this lake. They plan to fish in the lake. We might all be in grave danger!”

**“न्हंय तर? मागीर दोस्त म्हण आसचे कित्याक?”
विंदरान म्हळें.**

हिरणान आपण्याले नवे दोस्तांक धन्यवाद दीवनु म्हळें – “मोगाळ दोस्तांनो, शिकारी ह्या तळ्या देगेर तांगेले ठाण्य घालचे आलोचनेंत आसात म्हण आयकलां. ह्या तळ्यांतली मासळी धरची म्हणूय तांणी येवजिलां. बहुशः आमी सगळीं होड संकश्टांत पडचे आसात म्हण दिसता म्हाका.”





The tortoise was frightened and said, "I must leave this lake. It is too dangerous here."

The rat who was the wisest of the friends said, "Don't be afraid tortoise, we will help you. You are in more danger if you leave."

हें आयकून कासव भीवन कडकडत म्हळालो "ओहो! तशीं वे? हांगा भयंकर अपाय आसा म्हण जालें. म्हाका हें तळें सोडून वचकाचीच."

हे सगळे दोस्तां मजगती बुदवंत म्हळ्यार विंदूर. तांणे म्हळें - "आरे कासवा तूं कित्याक भियेता? आमीं सगळीं तुका मदत करताती. हो जागो सोडून गेल्यार मात्र तूं खरेपणाकय भारी त्रासांत पडशी."

But the tortoise refused to heed his friend's advice and left the safety of the lake.

His friends decided to follow him so as to protect him. As the tortoise was crawling away, a hunter came by and seeing the tortoise he caught it and put it into his bag.

दोस्तांनी इतले चंद करून सांगल्यारीय आयकनाशी
कासव तळें सोडून भायर गेलो.

जाल्यार तागेले मित्रांनी तागेलें पाप लेकुनु ताका रक्षण
करका म्हण, ताचे फाटी फाटी वचपाचो निर्धार केलो.
कासव पाय ओडत ओडत चमकुचाक लागलो. तेद
भितरी थंय पाविल्ले एक शिकारीन ह्या कासवाक
पळोवन, ताका उबारून आपण्याले झोळयेंत घालो.





Seeing this, the tortoise's friends were upset.

The rat said, "We must help our friend! Deer, you must lie down in this path pretending to be dead. Crow, you must sit on the deer as if you were pecking on a dead body. When the hunter comes near, run away. In the mean time, I will free the tortoise."

हें पळोवन कासवाले दोस्तांक भारी बेजार जालो.

विंदरान म्हळें "हें पळय, आमी आतां आमगेले मित्राक सहाय करकातीच. चितला, हे पळय, ह्या रस्त्यार तूं मेलिलवरी पडून रावका, आनी कावळ्या तूं, पळय त्या मेल्ले मडयाक चोचावच्याक बसल्यावरी बसका. जेन्ना शिकारी लागीं येता, तेन्ना तुंवे उडून वचका. हाजेमदें हांव कासवाली सुटवाट करतां."

The deer and crow agreed and did as the wise rat said.

The hunter came that way, and seeing what appeared to be a dead deer was thrilled and said, "Today must be my lucky day! I'll take the deer, eat the meat and sell the skin for a handsome price!"

He put down his bag and went to pick up the deer.

चितलान आनी कावळ्यान विंदरान सांगिलवरीचि केलें.

तेन्ना, तेच वाटेन शिकारी आयलो. जमनीचेर पडिले चितलाक पळोवन ताक्का भारी खुशी जाली. "म्हजो भाग्याचो दीस आयज. ह्या हरिणाक व्हरून ताचे मासाचें रुचकर रांदप करून जेवतां आनी तागेलें चामडें मस्त मोलाक विकतां " अशें तांणे विचार केलो.

आपण्याली झोळी सकयल दवरून तो चितलाक उबारचाक गेलो.





As soon as he left the bag, the rat began biting it and set the tortoise free. He then ran and hid in a hole while the tortoise leapt into the lake.

The hunter in the meantime was in for a shock! Just when he reached the deer, the deer leapt up and ran away.

ह्या दिकान तांणे आपण्याली झोळी तोग्गु
दवरिल्लीची, विंदरान ती कातरुन कासवाक सोडयलो.
विंदूर धावन वचून बुडक्कने बीळांत लिपलो आनी
कासवु तळ्यांत उडलो.

हेची वेळारी चितला लागीं पाविल्ले शिकारीक धपको
लागलो! कित्याक कि म्हळ्यार तांणे चितला लागीं
पावचे भितर चित्तल उडी मारुन धावन परारी !!

The hunter was perplexed. He consoled himself saying, "Never mind, at least I have the tortoise."

He picked up his bag and was astonished to see no tortoise in it! Dejected, he went away.

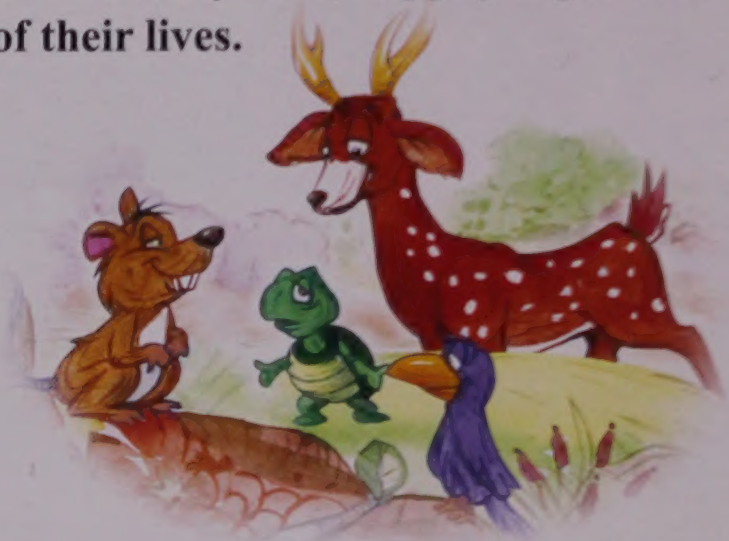
शिकारी पुराय दिग्भ्रमेंत पडलो. तरीपण धैर्य सोडनाशी
"जांवो, कांय होडना, म्हजलागीं कासव आसामुं!"
म्हळालो.

लागीं येवन तांणे आपली झोळी उखळली. कितें
पळयता? झोळी खाली!! कासव तांतून ना!!!
शिकार्याक भारी बेजार जालो.



The four friends met near the lake and the tortoise said, "I am very sorry dear friends. I should have listened to all of you. It was foolish of me not to trust you. Thank you for saving me!"

The rat, the crow and the deer forgave the tortoise and they lived happily together for the rest of their lives.



थोडे वेळान चारूय मित्र तळ्या देगेर मेळ्ळे. तेन्ना कासवान म्हळें "मोगाळ दोस्तांनो,तुमी सुरवेक सांगिले उतर हांव आयकलना म्हण म्हाका भारी बेजार आसा. तुमगेले उतरांचेर विश्वास दवरिलनासलें म्हजें मूर्खपण तें. तरी जालें तुमी म्हाका वांचयले बद्दल हांव तुमकां देव बरें करूं म्हणतां."

विंदूर, कावळो आनी चितलान कासवाक माफ केलें आनी ते सगळे मेळून खुशीन रावले.



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